



Department of Emergency Management

San Francisco City Hall, Room 344
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 558-3800



Daniel Lurie
Mayor

Mary Ellen Carroll
Executive Director

October 7, 2025

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Connie Chan
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Release of \$9,900,000 Reserve to the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management to Support the Community Safety Ambassador Program

Dear Madam Clerk and Chair Chan:

This letter serves as the request from the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) for the Budget and Finance Committee to calendar the release of \$9,900,000 in budget reserves in order to implement the Community Safety Ambassador Program. DEM respectfully requests this item to be heard by the Committee as soon as possible, with preference during the meeting on October 29, if available.

The \$9.9M in funding was appropriated in the FY 25-26 budget and placed on reserve pending substantial progress in the competitive procurement process for a long-term ambassador grant program. After careful planning and coordination, DEM, in partnership with the San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA), issued a [Request for Proposals](#) on October 3, 2025 to advance this process. Therefore, DEM is prepared to present to the Committee on our progress as well as long-term strategies for a more flexible and responsive citywide ambassador program.

San Francisco continues to confront a devastating fentanyl crisis, with more than 70% of accidental overdose deaths in 2024 linked to this synthetic opioid. Many neighborhoods have also experienced increased public disturbances associated with open-air drug markets. The Community Safety Ambassador Program will deploy specialized, highly trained ambassadors to provide community engagement, de-escalation, safety presence, street cleaning, overdose recognition and response, and connections to the City's systems of care. The revised program to be funded with the budget currently on reserve expands flexibility for the City and allows for more dynamic deployments than in the past.

This program is an essential component of broader City initiatives aimed at recovering from the pandemic and the fentanyl crisis by enhancing safety, cleanliness, and outreach. It will work in close coordination with the Drug Market Agency Coordination Center, Neighborhood Street Teams, and Community Benefit Districts to focus on neighborhoods affected by illegal drug markets, support residents and small businesses, activate public spaces, and strengthen local systems of care. Ambassador programs are also an essential component of the City's economic recovery strategy. By maintaining safe, clean, and welcoming neighborhoods, ambassadors help attract workers, support local businesses, and draw visitors to San Francisco.

DEM is committed to supporting thriving communities through the Community Safety Ambassador Program with the release of the requested funds. We look forward to providing a more thorough briefing on the topic when this item is scheduled at Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Adrienne Bechelli".

Adrienne Bechelli
Deputy Director, Coordinated Street Response
San Francisco Department of Emergency Management

CC: Mary Ellen Carroll, DEM Executive Director
Greg Wagner, Controller
Adam Thongsavat, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors, Office of Mayor Daniel Lurie
Anna Garfink, Senior Analyst, Budget and Legislative Analyst's Office